Customs and the Ministry of Home Affairs. The Indian High Commission at London have also been requested to find out as to how these antiquities have been collected for auction there so that specific cases can be instituted in the courts abroad for their retrieval. The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence who are investigating the instant case in India, have been provided with the available evidence regarding the theft of antiquities/art objects so as to facilitate the investigation on priority basis. The Ministry of External Affairs has been requested to enquire into the alleged involvement of the diplomats in the illicit trafficking of Indian antiquities.

Shikshakarmi Project

4529. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States where 'Shikshakarmi Project' has been launched;

(b) whether, under the aforesaid scheme, the Panchayats are empowered to recruit Shikshakarmis;

(c) if so, whether Government have come across some cases of irregularities in the recruitment of Shikshakarmis in District Panchayat Chanderi in Guna District of Madhya Pradesh;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by Government to ensure that only trained candidates belonging to the concerned villages are recruited as Shikshakarmis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) and (b) Shikshakarmi Project (SKP) is being implemented in the State of Rajasthan since 1987 with assistance from Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA). The project identifies teacher absenteeism as a major obstacle in universalisation of primary education and engages local youth with requisite qualifications as Shikshakarmis in consultation with local community to teach in primary schools.

Government of Madhya Pradesh has separately initiated a scheme under which Zila and Janpad Panchayats appoint Shikshakarmis in primary schools in lieu of regularly recruited teachers.

(c) and (d) According to Government of Madhya Pradesh, they have no information so far regarding irregularities, if any, in recruitment done in Chanderi Panchayat of Guna District under the scheme.

(e) In Madhya Pradesh all eligible candidates whether trained or untrained, are considered for appointment as Shikshakarmis. However, training is provided to such Shikshakarmis.

Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Range

4530. SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the rude, arrogant and negative attitude of top officials of Dr. Karni Singh Shooting range, towards shooters;

(b) if so, whether any complaint/ representation has been received in this regard, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have examined the complaints;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken to create a good atmosphere for shooters at the said range?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. DHANUSHKODI ATHITHAN): (a) to (c) Sir, a complaint was received by

Sports Authority of India againt the alleged mal-administration in Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Ranges. The complaint was examined by Sports Authority of India in detail. To redress the grievances of the shooters, a meeting of Director General, Sports Authority of India. Secretary General, National Rifle Association of India, the Administrator, Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Ranges and the Shooters was convened and the differences between the shooters and the Administrator sorted out amicably. The shooters have since returned to the Ranges and are practising in a cordial atmosphere.

Implementation of DPEP in Orissa

4531. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are implementing District Primary Education Programme (DPEP) in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof, alongwith the Central assistance provided during the last three years, district-wise;

(c) whether Government have assessed the progress of the programme, particularly in Nowraugpur District;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) and (b) District Primary Education Programme (DPEP) is under implementation in five districts of Orissa namely Bolangir, Dhenkanal, Gajapati, Kalahandi and Rayagada. Three more districts namely Baragarh, Keonjhar and Sambalpur have been identified for implementation. The plans for these three districts are being appraised at present. The major interventions under the programme include:

—Construction of Classrooms and new schools.

—Opening of Non-Formal/Alternative schooling centres.

—Appointment ot new teachers.

—Setting up of Early Childhood Education Centres.

—Strengthening of State Councils of Educational Research & Training (SCERTs)/District Institutes of Educational Training (DIETs).

—Setting up of Block Resource Centres (BRCs)/Cluster Resource Centres (CRCs).

—Teacher training and development of Teaching Learning Material.

—Special Intervention for educatin of Girls, SCs/STs, integrated education.

—Research based interventions.

Capacity building at all levels—national, State,district and sub-district levels.

The entire project cost (1996—2002) for the initially selected five districts is Rs. 146.84 crores. Rs. 50 lakhs was released during 1995-96 to the State for conducting pre-project activities. Actual implementation of the project has started during 1996-97. An amount of Rs. 872.50 lakhs has been released to the State as grant for the year 1996-97. Further distribution of funds to the districts is done by the State Government based on progress of the project.

(c), (d) & (e) As stated above, actual implementation of DPEP in Orissa has started during 1996-97 only. An autonomous registered society has been set up for the implementation of DPEP. A full time State Project Director has been appointed and the appointment of core staff at the State and district offices